

**Coastal Impact Assistance Program  
CIAP Project Nomination**

**Project Title:** Northshore Beach Marsh Creation/Restoration  
**Nominating Entity:** Greg Gorden  
Director, Department of Environmental Services  
St. Tammany Parish Government  
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**CIAP Authorized Use Consistency: (from Coastal Impact Assistance Guidelines and Application for Funds)**

**4.1 Authorization Uses of Funds**

1. Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas...
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources....

**CIAP Goals and Objectives**

This project complies with the Restoration and Conservation goals of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program by furthering the strategies, goals and objectives of the Coast 2050 plan, namely conservation and restoration of the Pontchartrain Basin. Additionally, all of the Coastal Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria are met.

**Total CIAP Funds Requested:** \$7,000,000.00 (Tier 2 Designation)

Parish CIAP Funds Proposed: \$2,000,000.00

State CIAP Funds Requested: \$5,000,000.00

**Project Location:**

Pontchartrain Basin, St. Tammany Parish. The project area is located in open water areas along the north shore near the community of Northshore Beach and east of the mouth of Bayou Liberty south of Slidell. Boundaries are generally Bayou Bonfouca to the north and west, Lake Pontchartrain to the south, and the GMO Railroad to the east.

**Problem:**

This area is located along the north shore and contributes to the integrity of the Lake Pontchartrain/Lake Borgne system. Over 3,600 acres of marsh were lost on the north shore in the past 50 years, and another 15% is expected to be lost over the next 50 years. This area was also in the direct path of Hurricane Katrina, which removed a tremendous amount of marsh and wildlife habitat from the region. Marsh grass and sediment stacked over nine feet high along the tree line north of this site. In order to minimize the adverse habitat and water quality impacts from Hurricane Katrina, it is imperative that marsh restoration occur as soon as possible. St. Tammany Parish Government estimates a loss of between 600 and 900 acres of intermediate marsh in this area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**Proposed Project Features:**

Project features include approximately 600 acres of marsh creation via hydraulic dredging and placement of 2 million cubic yards of material.

The likely borrow location is Lake Pontchartrain, the Highway 11 Canal, and Bayou Bonfouca and associated canals. Bonfouca as a borrow site would be contingent upon a finding of sediment suitability. Containment will be semi-confined (lake shore and bayou banks are still largely intact) and intermediate vegetation would be planted upon material compaction and settlement.

**Goals:**

1. Create approximately 600 acres of intermediate marsh.
2. Reduce erosion of adjacent interior marshes.
3. Maintain and support the integrity of the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline

**Preliminary Project Benefits:**

- 1) What is the total acreage benefitted both directly and indirectly?  
600 acres directly reestablished
- 2) How many acres of wetlands will be protected/created over the project life?  
2500 acres of protected or created marsh at the end of twenty years.
- 3) What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life?  
It is anticipated that the loss rate of the adjacent interior marsh would be reduced by 25-49%.
- 4) What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?  
It is expected that this project will have a net positive impact on non-critical infrastructure.
- 5) To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?  
This project contributes to the Coast 2050 and LCA objective to protect the Orleans land bridge. It also is located near the damaged PO-06 Fritchie Marsh and PO-13 Bayou Savage Projects that are working together to reestablish the Pontchartrain basin marshes. This project will work synergistically with these projects to provide additional support to the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and the Orleans land bridge.

**Identification of Potential Issues:**

There are some pipelines in the area that will require project coordination with the pipeline owners. These pipelines should not impact the proposed project expansion. There are no known state-issued oyster leases in the immediate project area. The project is supported by the parish. The property is partially located on the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and the owner is the Department of the Interior, USFWS.